

## UDOT avoids lane closure in I-15 rebuild

Lanes will narrow » Peak-hour delays in Provo expected to reach 30 minutes.

By Brandon Loomis

05/06/2010 07:15:03 PM MDT

Roads crews are ditching a plan to close a southbound lane between Orem and Provo this week during Interstate 15 reconstruction, the Utah Department of Transportation announced.

The closure between University Parkway and Center Street had been expected to cause up to two hours of delays during peak traffic hours for up to five months if motorists didn't find alternate routes or shift their schedules. Instead, UDOT Executive Director John Njord said, road engineers worked out a plan to keep all three southbound lanes open by shifting them onto temporary pavement and bridges and narrowing them from 12 feet to about 11 feet each.

"I'd love to be the invisible transportation company, and that's what we're trying to do," Njord said. "It was some really creative thinking."

The shift likely will still cause motorists to slow down, Njord said, but the delay now is estimated to be a half-hour, or perhaps an hour if few motorists change their commuting patterns.

*Brandon Loomis*